

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6-8, 12-14 and 29-37 are pending in the present application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 36 and 37. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 2, 6, 13, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36 and 37 and cancel claim 35. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner noted that the declaration fails to express that the present application is a divisional application of 09/829,335. With the filing of the present application, Applicants submitted a copy of the declaration of the parent '335 application. It is respectfully submitted that a copy of the parent declaration is sufficient. See MPEP 602.05(a).

The Examiner objected to or rejected claims 29, 30, 32 and 35 for various informalities. Applicants have amended these claims accordingly and respectfully request that the rejection and objections be withdrawn.

Claims 36 and 37

Applicants have amended claims 36 and 37 to place them in independent form and to include the recitations of claim 35 from which they depended. Claim 35 has been canceled. Applicants note that they have changed "a combination of a plurality of reductions" to "a combination of a plurality of reduction gears" in amending claims 36 and 37. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 8 and 29

Applicants have amended claim 2 to better claim the invention and to include the recitation "wherein the clutch is disposed in opposition to the electric motor relative to the speed-reducing mechanism." This recitation is similar to the allowable subject matter of claim 36, except that claim 36 recites "relative to the plurality of reduction gears." It is believed that claim 2 and its dependent claims 8 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 7 and 12

Applicants have amended claim 6 to include the recitation “wherein the clutch is disposed in opposition to the electric motor relative to the plurality of reduction gear sets.” This recitation is similar to the allowable subject matter of claim 36. It is believed that claim 6 and its dependent claims 7 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 13 and 14

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the recitation “wherein the clutch is disposed in opposition to the electric motor relative to the speed-reducing mechanism.” This recitation is similar to the allowable subject matter of claim 36 in the same manner as discussed above with respect to claim 2. It is believed that claim 13 and its dependent claim 14 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 30 and 31

The Examiner rejected claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al. (US 6008606) in view of Teraoka (US 5083986). Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite “wherein the actuator is disposed on an axially opposite side of the reduction to the electric motor.” It is believed that neither Arai ‘606 nor Teraoka disclose this recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 and its dependent claim 31 are patentable over Arai ‘606 and Teraoka.

Claims 32-34

The Examiner rejected claim 32 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arai ‘606 and claims 33 and 34 as being unpatentable over Arai ‘606 in view of Tokushima (US 5715901). Applicants have amended claim 32 to recite “a clutch disposed between an output gear coaxial to and supported by an input shaft of the final reduction gear and the final reduction gear.” It is

believed that neither Arai nor Tokushima disclose this recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-34 are in condition for allowance.

IDS

Applicants submitted an IDS on February 3, 2004 with the filing of the application. As indicated by the Examiner's initials on the submitted IDS, the Examiner has apparently considered all of the listed references with the exception of JP 09-226394. JP '394 was properly submitted and considered in the above parent '335 application. Thus, Applicants believe that JP '394 should have also been considered by the Examiner. *See* 37 CFR 1.98(d). To assist the Examiner, Applicants herewith resubmit JP '394 along with a translated abstract. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the reference.

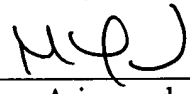
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 482782005410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

Copy of Form PTO-1449 dated Feb. 3, 2004 as initialed by Examiner
JP Patent No. 09-226394 with Abstract in English